

QJNTPY Indo-China

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SUBJECT Mutual Defense Agreement Between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

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REPORT NO.

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1. Representatives of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) have met with representatives of Laos and Cambodia at Vinh Nghe An Province in Central Vietnam and following a conference held from 30 August to 1 September, have concluded and signed a mutual defense agreement. Among the eighteen persons attending the conference were the DRV Chief of Staff, Hoang Van Thai, the Interzone IV Chief of Staff, Dang Coi (鄧禮),¹ and the Viet Bac Interzone Chief of Staff, Vu Quoc Thai (武國泰),¹ who is concurrently the Commander of the Hac Ha (黑河) Column (sic). Laos and Cambodia were represented by Chi Pai Li Li (查白利立)¹ and Su La-ting (蘇拉定).¹
2. The full text of this mutual defense agreement consisted of twenty-one articles divided into three parts as summarized below:
 - A. Indochina Corridor Area Mutual Defense Agreement.
 - (1) The Indochina Corridor Area consists of the territory within 50 miles of the Vietnam border from Chap Doc Province in the south, which is drained by the Mekong River, extending northward along the boundary bordering the three nations to a point south of Song Ma Giang (105-44; 19-58).
 - (2) The signatory nations must take collective action regarding all military activity arising from the national revolution. Within the areas defined above, the three nations shall continually maintain the following number of troops:
 - a. In the Vietnam regions, six divisions (sic) and not less than 5,000 men in strength² shall be assigned by Inter-zones IV, V, and VI (sic), and shall be stationed in Central Vietnam.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 2 -

- b. Two brigades of the Forest Area Shock Column from Cao Dai Giao's (高台教) Army, which has already been organized, shall be stationed in the Corridor Area of Laos.
- c. One brigade of the Coastal Column in Cambodia shall be stationed in the Coastal Area.
- (3) The DRV shall be responsible for the organization and training of minority races in the Coastal Area.
- (4) The DRV shall have responsibility for allocation and replacement of arms and ammunition.
- (5) All military duties other than defense duties shall be directed by the DRV.
- (6) Fifty Laotian troops shall be organized into ten small destruction teams which will be responsible for controlling traffic in the Coastal Area.
- (7) Signal and communication liaison organizations shall be established as decided in separate agreements.

B. Free National Areas Mutual Defense Agreement.

- (1) Military preparations required by the national revolution in Laos and Cambodia shall be decided upon by the various nations of the United Front.
- (2) Military replacements and general supplies will be furnished temporarily without compensation, in accordance with the needs of Vietnam army units participating in mutual defense.
- (3) The DRV shall send cadres, not exceeding two hundred persons, to assist in the establishment of local militia and the expansion of communication and defense organizations.
- (4) A Central Region Mutual Defense Command shall be established at Nanh Ha Tran (南河站), the most northerly point of Laos. This command shall maintain close contact with the Lai Chau and Son La commands.
- (5) Supply Service organizations and warehouses shall be established within the joint command.

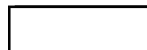
C. Dai Tu (106-02; 21-02) Mountain Area Mutual Defense Agreement.

- (1) This area shall consist of the territory in North Vietnam south of the Red River, to the Laos border, extending west to the borders of Yunnan and east to Viet Tri (105-26; 21-18).
- (2) Military duties in this area shall be performed principally by three divisions of the Vietnam Black River Column which will be assisted by the 1 Brigade of the Laos Shock Army. The military strength of the full force is 6,400 men.
- (3) The Commander-in-Chief of this area will establish his headquarters in the Son La region. In the Lai Chau District, a separate sub-command shall be established which shall function under instructions from the North Vietnam Joint Defense Command now located at Yen Bay.

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25X1A

- 3 -

- (4) As soon as mutual defense combat duties begin, the 1 Brigade of the Laos Shock Army must be organized into twenty teams for normal patrol activities and to discharge shock duties.
- (5) Communication centers must be strengthened to improve relay delivery of messages from one village to another. Telecommunications must be established between the various command headquarters.
- (6) Farmers already organized in the Tai regions shall be encouraged to participate in mutual defense duties, i.e., organize river teams, sentry teams, intelligence teams, home defense teams, transport teams and women's service teams.
- (7) Command headquarters should establish a sanatorium for veterans. Medical corps of the various army units shall establish medical centers in the places where they are stationed.
- (8) The principal mutual defense missions are to guard against aggression by the French imperialists, to eliminate bandits in the Thai region and to organize minority racial groups of the Thai region and to strengthen national defense along the border.
- (9) A military conference of the three nations shall decide the initiation and termination of the mutual defense mission.

25X1A

1. Comment. has no previous information concerning these individuals, whose names were reported in Chinese characters.

25X1A

2. Comment. The names, unit designations and reported strengths of the military forces referred to by the source appear to have little relation to consistency or probability. Presumably, six divisions would number upwards of 30,000 men, a doubtful figure considering the area and the troops potentially available.

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